

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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21

ACTION FSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 ABF-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /017 W  
----- 094604

R 190701Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3746

INFO USOFFICE RFC PARIS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2299

FOR DEPARTMENT OF STATE BF/FS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN, SY

SUBJ: U.S. CURRENCY

REF: RFC 14952 NOTAL

DAMASCUS 2099

DAMASCUS 1803

1. THE RFC SUGGESTED THAT EMPLOYEES CASH THEIR PERSONAL DOLLAR CHECKS OR LOCAL CURRENCY CHECKS AT THE BANK WHENEVER U.S. CURRENCY WAS REQUIRED, AND TO CHARGE THE COST ON TRAVEL VOUCHERS. WHEREAS THIS METHOD WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IN MANY LOCATIONS, IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICLE, CUMBERSOME AND VERY TIME-CONSUMING HERE. EVEN SO, THE B&FO, IN DISCUSSION WITH THE BANK MANAGER WAS INFORMED THAT PROCUREMENT BY AN INDIVIDUAL REQUIRING U.S. DOLLARS WOULD INVOLVE RECEIPT OF 50 PERCENT IN U.S. CURRENCY, BASED ON 3.70 TO \$1.00 WHEREAS OFFICIAL RATE IS 3.65, AND 50 PERCENT IN LOCAL CURRENCY. IT TOOK ONE EMPLOYEE A WEEK TO GET A CHECK CASHED AT THE BANK RECENTLY.

2. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS FOR THE CLASS-B CASHIER TO NEGOTIATE THE TRANSACTION, OFFICIALLY; BUT THIS WOULD REQUIRE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE U.S. DOLLAR BANK ACCOUNT BY THE USDO, (INTENDED FOR BANK CONTROL ONLY), RESULTING IN A LOSS BY EXCHANGE.

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3. A METHOD OF PROCUREMENT MUST BE FOUND TO ALEVIATE THE EVER-

INCREASING SHORT SUPPLY OF U.S. CURRENCY, HERE, AND IN BEIRUT.  
THE AMEMBASSY, BEIRUT WAS CONTACTED ONCE AGAIN ON THIS SUBJECT  
BUT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ASSIST.

4. THE POST IS ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE THE SITUATION, PARTIALLY, BY  
OBTAINING TRAVELLERS CHECKS ON CONSIGNMENT BUT EVEN THIS METHOD  
WILL NOT ALTOGETHER REPLACE THE NECESSITY FOR MAINTAINING A  
LIMITED SUPPLY OF U.S. CURRENCY. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THE  
RFC USDO HAS NO AUTHORITY TO SHIP U.S. CURRENCY. THE USE OF A  
REGISTERED POUCH TO FORWARD U.S. CURRENCY WOULD HELP.

5. ADVISE ON THE SUBJECT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.  
PELLETREAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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